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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Fuel Assistance may help needy families keep warm this winter *Application deadline is Nov. 9*

Richmond – Applications for Fuel Assistance through the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program are being accepted through Friday, Nov. 9, at local departments of social services. Families and individuals must apply at their local department of social services.

“Recent warm temperatures have been a blessing for many, as they may not have had to use heat yet. But it will indeed get colder very soon. Some Virginians may face a dilemma between buying food or medication and paying their heating bill,” said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr.

Fuel Assistance is a supplemental program intended to assist households in meeting their home heating energy needs. To qualify for Fuel Assistance, a one-person household’s maximum gross monthly income cannot exceed \$1,107. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income level is \$2,238.

“Those living in lower-income households and members of at-risk groups, including the elderly and disabled, have until Nov. 9 to apply for assistance. We encourage those who may qualify to not delay in applying simply because it has been warm lately,” Commissioner Conyers urged.

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. The Fuel Assistance Program was created in 1979 and each year serves approximately 100,000 households across the Commonwealth. For more information on the Energy Assistance Program, visit VDSS’ Web site at:
<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.html>.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (www.dss.virginia.gov) Home Office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) throughout the state. The VDSS mission is “People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities.”

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Interviews are available upon request. For additional story ideas and information, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov.